

T H E T O W N O F **MERRIMAC**

S6911 State Highway 113 - P.O. Box 115
Merrimac, WI 53561

MINUTES OF THE TOWN BOARD MEETING Wednesday, September 2, 2015

Present were Steve Peetz, Chair, Supervisor John Gaedke, Supervisor Charlie Hall, and Tim McCumber, Town Administrator & Clerk – Treasurer.

Chairman Peetz called the **TOWN BOARD MEETING** to order. McCumber confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed. The board considered approval of minutes of the town board meeting of August 12, 2015. Motion by Gaedke to approve the minutes, second by Hall. Motion passed. The board reviewed the financial reports and approval of bills. Motion by Peetz, to approve, second by Gaedke. Motion passed. Under **PUBLIC COMMENT**, Frank Olah of Weigand's Bay South appeared with concerns about the master plan regarding the plans at what was the Badger Pump House. The neighbors met and have concerns about the lack of parking. The plans call for 6 spaces with 21 overflow spaces on Ruthe Badger which will cause traffic problems. This will cause traffic and safety issues along the 50' easement that would be necessary for traffic to drive on. The road on the easement is currently not in good condition. They want the road to go through the center of the park lands so that it is further away from the homes. Any future meetings with the DNR should include the neighbors. Ron Grosse spoke in agreement with Olah and also offered additional comments in writing. He added that if that road is improved, it should consider screening to protect the neighbors. He thinks it will be a very popular location and we need to better plan for this location. He thinks it will be a perfect location. Under **CORRESPONDENCE**, emails Laura Olah, and emails from Ron Grosse and Emily Lukens supporting Olah's comments, regarding the access to the Weigand's Bay Day use area for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. Under **REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**, Rich Sereg, the town's representative to the Sauk Prairie Ambulance Commission appeared. His report was tabled by the chair as a presenter from the ambulance committee had yet to arrive. Hall would like to contact the DOT to address the portion of highway between Grandview Avenue and Moon Valley Boat all of the way to Eagle Point. McCumber will view the area and contact county for advice. Gaedke reported that Jordan Blue will have his Eagle Board review noting that if he passes, he will become the third Eagle Scout the town has assisted by providing projects. McCumber discussed some work that had been done on Allbrite Road. Denny Beich, the town's highway commission asked McCumber to report that residents are to keep the ditches clear and should not be filling them with leaves and other debris. McCumber reminded board members the Wisconsin Towns Association annual meeting is coming up in October. McCumber presented a draft of the 2016 budget and asked the board members to provide any input prior to consideration at the October 7th board meeting. There was no **OLD BUSINESS**. Under **NEW BUSINESS**, the board considered an agreement with GovPayNet to process credit card payments on a user fee basis with no cost to the town. McCumber reported the company assumes standard liability for transactions excluding fraud. There are not charges to the town but users will pay a processing fee to GovPayNet. Motion to accept the agreement by Gaedke, second by Hall. Motion passed. The board then considered possible action regarding town's comments to the WI Dept. of Natural Resources for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area Master Plan as it relates to Weigand's Bay Day Use Area, access from the Town of Merrimac, drinking water and other potential concerns. After considerable discussion involving members of the audience, Peetz moved to accept the proposed comments with some language amendments from what was presented, second by Gaedke. Motion passed. Sereg appeared with Bob Koch who had not arrived. Koch is a crew chief and gave a presentation about the new ambulance station. The commission recently approved increasing the assessment from \$6.10 per resident to

\$8.21. The commission believes they will lower it back down for next year. There was no action on the report, but McCumber reported this increase has already been worked into the budget for 2016. McCumber then reported that there is a proposal floating around to lower the state's sales tax rate and allow municipalities to collect a sales tax. McCumber said it would be nice to have data from the Department of Revenue as to know who in town has a seller's permit and collects sales tax, along with the revenue before the town decides to take any action on the proposal.

Motion to adjourn by Gaedke, second by Hall. Motion approved.



FALL LEAF REMINDER!

Did you know it is illegal to dump your leaves into Lake Wisconsin? You are also prohibited from filling the roadside ditch with them as well! Both impede lake water quality, while the ditch lines blocks storm water!

Mulch your leaves for a greener lawn!

1. Chop those leaves with your mower. Take the grass catcher off your mower and mow over the leaves on your lawn.
2. Large leaves block sunlight from hitting the ground and can kill your lawn, but when you mulch the leaves into tiny pieces, it acts as a fertilizer and improves your lawn in the spring!
3. Don't believe us? Search the internet for leaf mulching to learn more.

Prefer to rake?

1. If you want to rake them, now you need to get rid of them. Peterson Sanitation is not able to take leaves or other yard waste as they are prohibited from landfills. You'll need to work with a private landscaper who may have the ability to take them to another site for disposal.
2. Consider obtaining a burn permit. When burning leaves, be considerate of your neighbors and choose a day where there is little wind or a light breeze carrying your smoke out over the lake or away from other property!
3. Do NOT burn without a permit from the DNR! The DNR does require burn permits and they are free. You can get one online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestfire/permits.html> or at the Merrimac Post Office.